



King County & City of Seattle Public Utilities Inspections in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Area

The King County Industrial Waste Program & City of Seattle Public Utilities have prepared this flier for the businesses we are contacting during the Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup

Why are you contacting my business?

King County and the City of Seattle need your help to reduce the amount of chemicals discharged to the Lower Duwamish Waterway. We are asking you to participate in our effort to locate and control ongoing sources of chemicals to the waterway.

Federal, state, and other government agencies are investigating the waterway to determine how much contamination currently exists in the waterway sediments (materials that settle to the bottom of the river). Following the investigation, contaminated sediments in the waterway will be cleaned up to protect human health and aquatic organisms. However, before contaminated sediment can be cleaned up, ongoing discharges of chemicals to the waterway must be controlled.

Who is doing the inspections?

Staff from the following agencies are conducting inspections: the King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW); the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County; City of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU); and Public Health – Seattle & King County. Ecology staff may also assist with some of these inspections.

SPU manages the public storm drain system in the City. SPU inspectors work with local businesses and residents to reduce the pollutants discharged to the public storm drain system and to ensure that they comply with City code requirements for pollution prevention.

KCIW works with local industries to make sure that all chemicals discharged to the King County sewerage system meet federal and county limits.

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Public Health – Seattle & King County and KCIW assist small quantity generators of hazardous waste in complying with regulations, reducing the use of hazardous products, and proper management and disposal of waste.

What are the inspections looking for?

To minimize the potential for recontamination of the Lower Duwamish Waterway sediments, our inspection process focuses upon identifying and controlling ongoing sources of chemicals that could reach the waterway through storm water and/or combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

In general terms, we need to determine whether your business is likely to:

- Store or use chemicals of concern
- Generate hazardous waste
- Discharge industrial wastes to the sewer
- Manage possible pollutants in a way that may introduce them into storm drains.



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division



City of Seattle

Will you inspect my business?

King County and SPU visit companies to determine if a business is likely to engage in activities that generate pollutants. This determination could lead to a source control inspection.

Many people are surprised to learn that businesses located as far as 3 miles from the Duwamish may still send wastewater and stormwater to the waterway. (See "How do pollutants reach the waterway?")

What takes place during an inspection? Inspections are similar to those you may have already experienced as part of King County's industrial pretreatment and local hazardous waste programs and SPU's stormwater pollution prevention program. We carry out business inspections under our existing code authorities.

Our inspectors look at inside work areas to evaluate pollutants discharged to the sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal systems. We also examine outdoor activities that could contribute pollutants to the waterway via stormwater runoff.

When we find businesses that utilize chemicals for which local discharge limits have been established, the county advises them on wastewater pretreatment and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that help reduce the quantity of pollutants discharged to the sanitary sewer. Inspectors also advise businesses on how to properly store and dispose hazardous materials and waste that may be used or generated onsite.

For stormwater-related pollutants, inspectors advise you how to comply with the City's storm water code and reduce the amount of pollution leaving your property by using best management practices.

About the Waterway

In 2001 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added a roughly five-mile span of the Lower Duwamish Waterway to its Superfund list. This span flows into Elliott Bay near Harbor Island. The Waterway is being cleaned up under the guidance of the EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

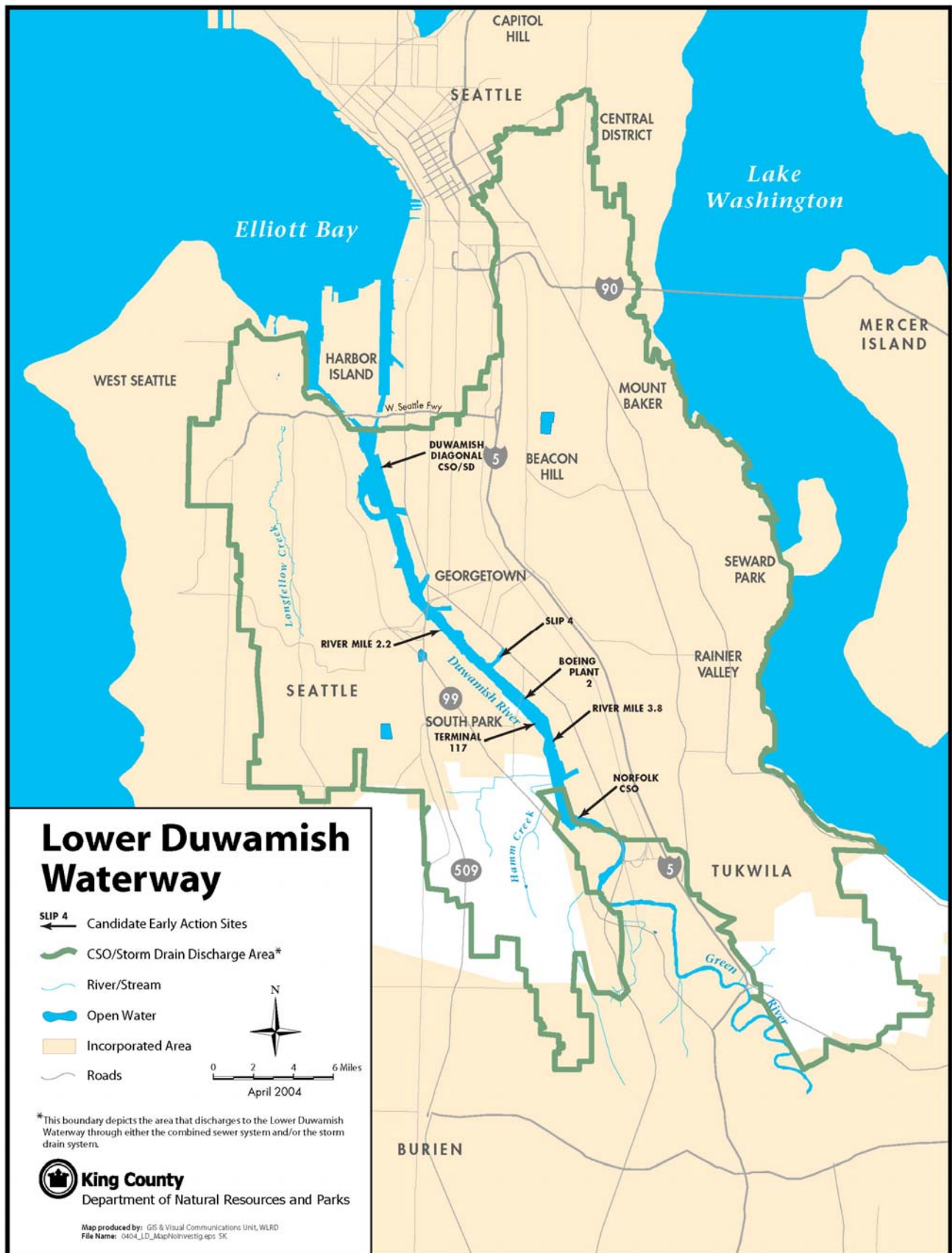
Uses of the waterway include commercial fishing and recreation. Also a wildlife habitat for many species, millions of salmon pass through the waterway every year.

Investigations have determined that sediment in the Lower Duwamish waterway contains polychlorinated biphenol (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates (plasticizers), metals (arsenic and mercury, and other organic compounds.

Sources of the chemicals in the waterway include historic and contemporary industrial releases, combined sewer overflows, and urban storm water runoff.

Understanding and controlling ongoing sources of chemicals to the waterway is very important to minimize the potential for sediment recontamination following cleanup.

See map next page.



Contract information next page

How do pollutants reach the waterway?

Pollutants enter the waterway from a variety of sources, including stormwater outfalls, combined sewer overflows, groundwater discharge from contaminated sites, and atmospheric deposition. King County and SPU are focusing on controlling sources of pollution within the public storm drain and combined sewer systems.

Storm drains carry stormwater runoff from streets, roofs, parking lots, and other pervious/imperious areas within the basin. Stormwater picks up materials deposited on roadways, chemicals released from leaking equipment or accidental spills, and materials that may be illegally or inadvertently discharged into the drainage system. The public storm drain system serves about 9,100 acres (14 square miles) of residential, commercial, and industrial land around the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

The combined sewer system serves about 20,000 acres (30 square miles) of land around the waterway. It carries municipal sewage, industrial wastewater, and storm water runoff. During heavy rains, the capacity of the combined sewer system is exceeded, causing runoff and wastewater to overflow before reaching the treatment plant. Some of this overflow eventually reaches the waterway.

As managers of these conveyance systems, King County and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are working with businesses in the area to reduce the amount of chemicals currently discharged to the waterway via storm drains and combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

Inspections to locate possible sources of chemicals that are a concern in the waterway sediments began February 2003.

Contact Information for the Inspection Program:

King County Industrial Waste Program
130 Nickerson Street, Suite 200
Seattle, Washington 98109-1658
(206) 263-3000 or TTY relay service at
1-800 833-6388.
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/findwaste/index.htm>

Seattle Public Utilities MS 07-49-00
700 Fifth Ave, Suite 4900, PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98104-5004
(206) 615-1636
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/surfacewater/default.htm>

For More Information about the Superfund Site

Washington State Department of Ecology
Rick Huey, 425-649-7256
Richard Thomas, 425-649-7208

Northwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 - 160th Ave. SE,
Bellevue, WA 98008

Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue,
Seattle, WA 98101
General Information: Cindy
Colgate Schuster, 206-553-1815
Si desea hablar con alguien que habla español, llame a Lilibeth Serrano Vélez,
206-553-1388.
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/webpage/Lower+Duwamish+Waterway+site>

Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

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